

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A kit for incision closure comprising:
a closed internally sterile package;
at least two trimmable, sterile flexible incision flanking strips having a first skin contacting side and a second fastener side having hook or loop fasteners; and
at least one trimmable, sterile flexible spanning element having a skin facing side having hook or loop fasteners releasably mating with the hook or loop fasteners of the incision flanking sides to span the incision contacting each of the incisions flanking sides to draw the incision together.
2. The kit of claim 1 wherein the flanking strip are at least 20 centimeters long and from one to four centimeters wide.
3. The kit of claim 1 wherein the flanking strips provide cutouts on one side spaced along their length allowing curvature of the strip along a plane of the strip with reduced buckling.
4. The kit of claim 1 wherein the flanking strips are loop portions of the hook and loop fastener and the spanning element is a hook portion of the hook and loop fasteners.
5. The kit of claim 1 wherein the spanning element is a set of strips.
6. The kit of claim 1 wherein the spanning element is a panel sized to cover a standard abdominal incision.
7. The kit of claim 1 wherein the flanking strips include printed indicia on one side indicating use of the flanking strips.
8. The kit of claim 7 wherein the printed indicia indicates a side of the flanking strip that is to be away from the skin.

9. The kit of claim 7 wherein the printed indicia indicates a side of the flanking strip that is to be away from an incision edge.

10. The kit of claim 7 wherein the printed indicia is a stitch line indicating a preferred location of stitches or staples attaching the flanking strip to the skin.

11. The kit of claim 10 wherein the printed indicia indicates a side of the flanking strip that is to be away from an incision edge and the stitch line is near a side of the flanking strip away from the incision edge as marked.

12. The kit of claim 1 wherein the flanking strips have a pressure sensitive adhesive on a side to contact a patient's skin.

13. The kit of claim 1 wherein the flanking strips and spanning element are treated with an antimicrobial material.

14. A method of closing an incision comprising the steps of:

(a) trimming two sterile flexible incision flanking strips having a first skin contacting side and a second fastener side having hook or loop fasteners to an approximate length of the incision;

(b) attaching the trimmed flexible incision flanking strips to opposite sides of the incision;

(c) joining the attached flexible incision flanking strips with at least one trimmable, sterile flexible lacing element having a skin facing side having hook or loop fasteners releasably mating with the hook or loop fasteners of the incision flanking strips to span the incision contacting each of the incisions flanking strips to draw the two together; and

(d) periodically releasing the sterile flexible lacing element from the attached flexible incision flanking strips as the skin is stretched and reattaching the sterile flexible lacing element to the attached flexible incision flanking strips to further stretch the skin and stepwise draw the incision closed.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of attaching the trimmed flexible incision flanking strips to opposite sides of the incision attaches the flanking strips at edges away from the incision.

16. The method of claim 14 including the step of trimming the flanking strips to conform to the edges of an incision.